

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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To: All FS Manual Holders

From: Yvette Barnier, Food Stamp Program Officer
Public Assistance Bureau

Subject: Bulletin FS 051

Please place this bulletin at the beginning of Section FS 803-1

SECTION: Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents

SUBJECT: Disqualification/Regaining Eligibility

REFERENCES: 7 CFR 273.7

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Receipt

INTRODUCTION: When the Office of Public Assistance (OPA) receives notification from the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) that an individual has been closed from FSET prior to the six month report month, OPA will send the individual a "Lost ABAWD Exemption" Notice, F035 (replaces F034). This notice will advise the individual that he/she has lost the ABAWD exemption due to not participating in FSET; or, in non FSET counties, losing another ABAWD exemption. The Notice requests verification regarding any other ABAWD exemption the client may have. If the individual does not verify a new exemption, ABAWD months will begin to count prospectively and the case will close or decrease when ABAWD months have been exhausted. If the individual has closed FSET participation due to employment for 20 hours or more per week, and the wages do not put the household over the GMI, the individual will be given an ABAWD exemption and the verified wages will be included in the benefit calculation.

POLICY CHANGE: Remove the first example on page 7 and replace with the following Example.

Example: Janet is an ABAWD living in a county this is not geographically exempt. Janet has not used any ABAWD months and applies for benefits on March 1st. She enrolls in FSET in March. On April 15th, the OPA Social Service Specialist receives notification

from FSET that Janet is no longer participating in FSET. The OPA Social Service Specialist sends Janet the "Lost ABAWD Exemption" Notice, F035. Janet reports within 10 days that she is working 20 hours a week at \$5.50 an hour. Janet will continue to receive an ABAWD exemption due to employment and the wages will be included in the benefits calculations even if it causes a decrease of benefits. Timely notice is required.

POLICY CHANGE:

Remove the last example on page 8 and replace with the following example.

Example: Ann is an ABAWD with no exemptions living in a county that is not geographically exempt and does not have FSET. Ann applies on July 1st as a single family household and an alert is set to close her case September 30th. On August 10th, Ann reports that she began a part time job working 20 hours per week on August 1st. The OPA Social Service Specialist requests verification of wages. Ann verifies the wages timely and is allowed the ABAWD exemption beginning September 1st and wages are used to calculate benefits.

Updated manual material will be distributed as soon as possible. Please use this bulletin as a guide until new manual material is available. Contact your Regional Policy Specialist if you have questions or concerns about this policy.